

Program Purpose

The Drought Emergency Conservation Program (ECPD) provides cost-share assistance during periods of drought to supply emergency water in pastures where the previously adequate water source has failed.

Eligibility

A failed water source must be located in the pasture where the new ECPD practice is being installed. To be eligible for ECPD, a practice must primarily serve grazing land and have adequate vegetation for livestock grazing.

Environmental Review Process

ECPD requires an environmental review on all applications to ensure the proposed project will not affect any natural resources listed on form FSA-850.

ECPD application/projects cannot be funded until the environmental review process has been completed. If an ECPD practice is started before the environmental review is completed, cost-share assistance may not be authorized.

Work should not begin on the project until the environmental review process has been completed.



Practices

Emergency practices include:

- ◆ **Practice EC-6:** Pipelines, tanks, troughs, constructing or deepening wells, and spring developments.
- ◆ **Submersible pump.** (Pressure tank, valves, gages, etc., not eligible for cost-share.)
- ◆ **Practice EC-7 - Water Hauling**
Cost-share is available for: 1) the labor for delivering water; 2) truck rental for delivering water; 3) temporary holding tanks and troughs; 4) contracted labor for water delivery.
- ◆ **Practice EC-7 - Silt Removal**
Cost-share is available for removing silt from existing water impoundment structures that are silted in and limited capacity exists.

What The Producer Needs To Do To Apply For ECPD

- ◆ Mark on your map:
 - border fences
 - cross fences
 - existing water sources
 - failed water sources (for dams, add years failed and water source used since that date.)
 - new project
- ◆ Estimate the cost of the new project.

- ◆ If you install tanks, troughs, pipelines or springs, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with project specifications.

Then What Happens.....

After the inspection, the FSA County Committee may issue an approval if all eligibility requirements are met and funding is available.

The practice must be completed 60 days following County Committee approval. Work may begin as soon as the application has been filed at the FSA office.

Completion of the Project

Following completion of the project:

- ◆ Notify your local FSA county office and submit any bills or receipts from the project. Sign form AD-245.
- ◆ If you do the work yourself, submit a signed log of the hours and type of work that was completed.
- ◆ You will be required to show that all invoices and/or bills have been paid. This may be done with a copy of cancelled checks, a copy of a credit card receipt, or a written statement from the contractor or supplier that the bills have been paid.
- ◆ A project inspection will be conducted by NRCS or FSA and a cost-share payment may be issued.

Additional Information

- ◆ Cost-share rate is 75 percent of actual costs for temporary practices and 50 percent of actual costs for permanent practices, not to exceed the established maximums.
- ◆ All practices must be done according to NRCS specifications. However, some components of certain practices are not eligible for FSA cost-share.
- ◆ Permanent practices must be maintained for 10 years and are subject to spot check during that time. If the practice is not working, or is being used for ineligible purposes, cost-share may be required to be refunded.
- ◆ The FSA County Committee may limit cost-share based on acres served. Projects are not eligible on grazing land that has more than 50 percent cropland in a pasture.
- ◆ If you have an approved practice and later decide to change that practice, the extents, or the location, you must contact the FSA office prior to changing to see if the practice approval will still apply.
- ◆ Projects on federal land are only eligible if the project serves private land.

Additional Information

- ◆ If the project has been started or completed, please contact your local FSA office to see if the project will still meet cost-share eligibility.



Producers in Montana have benefited from ECPD by installing pipelines, tanks and developing springs.



DISASTER ASSISTANCE

DROUGHT EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECPD)



USDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
AND PROVIDER

4/05

For More Information on ECPD:
Contact your local FSA office or
logon to the Montana FSA website
at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mt>